

Pakistan: Demographic and Ethnic Threats to Political Stability (U)

Pakistan has experienced exceptional demographic, social, and political turbulence in the 35 years since it received independence. The secession of the eastern wing to form Bangladesh in 1971 resulted in the loss of more than half of its citizens, and for the second time in less than 25 years, Pakistan had to organize itself. Ethnic and linguistic differences have long divided the people of the region, periodically erupted into political violence, and made the building of a sense of national identity at times appear impossible. Major refugee migrations in 1947, 1971, and most recently since 1979 have had lasting social and political effects. The continuing labor migration to the Middle East, involving millions of workers since the mid-1970s, has already affected the economy and may accelerate social change in the future as increasing numbers of relatively prosperous workers return. (U)

Table 1
Total Urban and Selected
City Populations, 1982*

Thousand persons
(except where noted)

Total urban area*	24,778
Urban population as percent of total	27.1
12 largest cities	
Karachi city	5,333
Lahore city	3,827
Federated municipal and corporate areas	1,129
Rawalpindi/Islamabad	1,037
Peshawar city	(832)
Islamabad	(225)
Hyderabad city	817
Multan city	737
Gujranwala municipal and corporate areas	643
Punjab city	604
Sialkot city	309
Faisalabad city	308
Quetta city	306

* Prepared from 1981 census data.

Figures in U.S. million.

an increase of Pakistan's 92 million population by
about 3 million persons yearly during the 1980s,
to a total population of 115 million by 1990 and
130 million by 2000.

We expect the current annual 2.8-percent rate of
population growth, a product of high fertility and
mortality, to drop only slightly through the next
century. Demographic evidence shows no marked
change in fertility since the early 1960s; women
have an average of seven children. We believe the
government's failure to design family planning
programs acceptable to Pakistani couples has led to
some continuing high fertility. As a result, the

Table 2

Estimated Population by Province, 1982*

	Population (millions)	Percent
Pakistan	92 ^a	100
Punjab	52	57
Sind	21	23
North-West Frontier Province	14	15
Baluchistan	5	5

* Projected from 1981 census data.

This table is Unclassified.

The Afghan Refugees

We expect the Afghan refugees will present a problem of increasing complexity.

The US Census Bureau estimates that there are 2.5 million refugees as of mid-1982, based on the number of refugees

registered by the United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees between 1979 and the end of 1981,
estimated arrivals of 25,000 during 1982, and esti-
mated births and deaths occurring in the refugee
population. The United Nations projects that the
refugee population will reach 2.7 million by 1985 and
3.2 million by 1990, assuming that no additional
refugees will arrive or be repatriated after 1982. The
NWFP, including non-Pakistan areas, which currently
hosts about 80 percent of the refugees, is fast
approaching the saturation point in terms of suitable
land available for settlement, according to Western
and Pakistani observers. Additional areas could
only be developed if the refugees were to be
dispersed outside the NWFP.